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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

9 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Proposed National Intelligence Estimate on Probable Developments in Indochina

1. The Board believes that a new estimate, NIE-35/2, should be undertaken at once with a target date of 1 September, to be in the hands of policy makers before the conclusion of the rainy season in Indochina.
2. Instead of a six-month time period as in NIE-35 and NIE-35/1, the Board recommends that the new estimate have no fixed cut-off date. It is expected that the military sections would run through mid-1953, a terminating date which roughly corresponds with the end of the fighting season in Indochina, but attention would be given on a longer-range basis to questions such as Vietnamese developments and French capabilities and intentions.
3. Terms of reference for a new estimate have been considered, and it is anticipated that they will follow roughly those used for NIE-35/1. It is probable that increased attention will be given to French capabilities and intentions (on which light will be thrown in the pending NIE-63), on the political situation in Viet Nam, on developments with Viet Minh controlled territory, and on developments with Cambodia and Laos. If practicable, specific attention may be given to the consequences of increased US support.
4. Recommended Action: That the IAC approve initiation of the following estimate and so notify the undersigned by

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telephone by the close of business Wednesday, 11 June (Code 143, Extension 563).

NIE-35/2: Probable Developments in Indochina. Priority: High. Target date: 15 August if possible, but in any event not later than 1 September.



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Executive Secretary

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